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SRI KUNHI MUHAMED SHAFEE :—" Have the Government received any reports that these societies have to suffer losses due to the responsibility of running retail ration shops? "

THE HON. SRI D. SANJIVAYYA :—" I do not think they are running on losses, Sir."

DR. K. B. MENON :—" Sir, the Hon. Minister made reference to a conference. When he thinks of reorganizing these co-operative societies, will he be pleased to invite opinions from the Members of the Legislature? "

THE HON. SRI D. SANJIVAYYA :—" Certainly, Sir."

SRI S. NARAYANAPPA :—" Will the Hon. Minister be kind enough to tell us how many such Producers-*cum*-Consumers Co-operative Societies have been organized in Rayalaseema and what financial help has been given by the State? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" A separate question may be put."

SRI A. APPU :—" May I know the names of the Producers *cum*-Consumers Co-operative Societies which have been ordered to be liquidated? "

THE HON. SRI D. SANJIVAYYA :—" I am afraid I cannot give the figure at the present moment."

Appointment of Honorary First-class Magistrates.

* 250-C Q.—SRI K. R. VISWANATHAN (on behalf of Sri V. Gopala Gounder) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Law be pleased to state whether persons without legal qualifications are appointed as Honorary First-class Magistrates and why the Government consider that no legal qualifications are necessary for these posts?

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" Yes, in a few cases. Generally retired officials of the Judicial or Revenue Department, non-practising lawyers wherever available and are willing, are appointed. Other non-officials who by their general education, status and experience are considered fit for working efficiently as Special First-class Magistrates are also appointed."

SRI S. DEIVASIGAMANI :—" In view of the availabiltiy of legally qualified practitioners, will the Government consider abolishing this system of recruiting honorary magistrates? "

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" It is a very good system and people with integrity and character can function as efficiently as possible."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" Who was the appointing authority last year and who is the appointing authority this year, Sir? "

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" Of course, it is the Government."

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SRI M. BAPAIAH CHOUDARY :—" May I know, Sir, whether this order of appointing honorary first-class magistrates is in force even in districts where the judiciary has been separated from the executive? "

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" Only in some cases."

SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN :—" Are the Government aware that sometimes even legally qualified persons compete with those who are not qualified in law, and if so, will such defects be remedied in future? "

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" Whenever persons equipped with legal knowledge are not available, men with character and education are appointed and they are able to fulfil the functions properly, Sir."

SRI K. R. VISWANATHAN :—" May I know, Sir, how many such persons who are not qualified in law have been appointed in the State? "

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" A separate question may be put, Sir."

SRI S. S. KOLKEBAIL :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Collectors consult the local M.L.As. before appointing honorary magistrates, and if not, why?

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" Collectors do not consult because they may be under the impression that they will get a coloured report about the individuals."

SRI T. NAGI REDDI :—" The Hon. Minister told us that persons with character and education would be appointed as honorary magistrates. Sir, education at least can be judged and measured. How do the Government judge or measure character? "

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" By the reputation a person has got in the place."

SRI C. RAJAM RAMASAMI :—" May I know the quantum of work done by them and the daily allowance paid to them? "

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" It is purely honorary, Sir."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN :—" In view of the anxiety and interest shown by several Members who are legal practitioners, may I know whether the Hon. Minister for Law who also comes from legal profession, will consider appointment of persons *without* legal qualification to these posts? "

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" The working of the system has to be borne in mind and so whenever legally qualified persons are available, the Government appoint them."

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SRI P. PUNDARIKAKSHACHARYULU :—" Sir, from which source are the Government getting information about reputation of a particular person? "

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" We get it from the District Officers, Sir."

SRI M. S. MOGRAL :—" May I know, Sir, whether the M.L.As. always give coloured opinions? "

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" No, Sir, In some cases, they may."

Reconstruction of the bridge at Anakkayam, Ernad taluk.

* 250-D Q.—SRI KUNHI MUHAMED SHAFEE (on behalf of Sri K. M. Seethi) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether there was in the past a bridge to connect Ernad and Walluvanad taluks in Malabar district at Anakkayam in the Ernad taluk ;

(b) when that bridge collapsed ; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken to reconstruct the bridge?

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" (a) Yes.

" (b) About 75 years ago.

" (c) An estimate for reconstructing the bridge is under preparation. The work will be taken up as early as possible according to the availability of funds."

Veterinary Assistant Surgeon at Atmakur.

* 250-E Q.—SRI G. C. KONDAYYA : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state whether the Veterinary doctor at Atmakur is a touring doctor without staff or hospital at his headquarters and was therefore unable to cope with the cattle diseases which broke out in Atmakur taluk in 1952?

THE HON. DR. R. NAGAN GOUDA :—" The Veterinary Assistant Surgeon at Atmakur is in charge of a Minor Veterinary Dispensary, and has to tour when there is outbreak of contagious diseases within his jurisdiction.

The answer to the latter part of the question is in the negative. The outbreak of cattle disease (Rinderpest) in the taluk during 1952 was brought under effective control very quickly."

SRI G. C. KONDAYYA :—" Will the Hon. Minister at least now assure me whether, in view of the large scale outbreak of disease every year in Atmakur, the Government are going to start a hospital there with full equipment? "

THE HON. DR. R. NAGAN GOUDA :—" Sir, as a matter of fact the number of attacks was 42 and deaths 21. The touring veterinary doctor in charge of this dispensary was given all